

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FORWARDING DATA ON MULTIPLE
LABEL-SWITCHED DATA PATHS

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 An apparatus and method for forwarding data on a network are described. A
label-switching subnetwork within the network includes an ingress node and an egress
node coupled to source and destination nodes, respectively, on the network. The
ingress node sends a signal along a route within the subnetwork through a plurality of
subnetwork nodes to the egress node. In response, the subnetwork nodes transmit
1 response signals back along the route toward the ingress node which define the route
through the subnetwork and simultaneously allocate a plurality of paths within the
route. A single path can be selected for forwarding of data packets associated with a
source/destination pair, ensuring that data packets arriving at the destination are not
misaligned.

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